

Crystal City Family Internment Camp Final Exhibit Plan



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World War II Enemy Alien Internment

“Inevitably, war creates situations which Americans would not countenance in times of peace, such as the internment of men and women who were considered potentially dangerous to America’s national security.”

-INS, Department of Justice, 1946 Report

Texas played a significant role in World War II. Thousands worked in war industries such as oil production and aircraft manufacturing. Sacrifices were made on the home front in many ways such as rationing, scrap driving, and buying war bonds. In service of the war effort, 750,000 Texas men and women joined the military, and the state hosted more than 65 U.S. Army Air Forces facilities, 35 U.S. Army Ground Forces camps and forts, nearly a dozen naval installations, and 68 prisoner of war camps.



Somervell County Courthouse World War II Scrap Drive, courtesy of the Somervell County Historical Commission.

Shocked by the December 7, 1941, Empire of Japan attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii that propelled the United States into World War II, one government response to the war was the incarceration of thousands of Japanese Americans on the West Coast and the territory of Hawaii. Issei (Japanese-born immigrants who were prohibited by law from becoming U.S. citizens) and Nisei (American-born children who were U.S. citizens by birth) were significantly impacted by war hysteria. More than 120,000 Issei and Nisei were moved, primarily, to War Relocation Authority camps across the country. These internees shared a common loss of freedom with the thousands of Japanese, German, and Italian Americans and Enemy Aliens detained in Department of Justice (DOJ) camps through the Enemy Alien Control Unit Program. Texas hosted three temporary detention centers in Houston, San Antonio, and Laredo; three DOJ Enemy Alien confinement camps administered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at Crystal City, Kenedy and Seagoville, and two U.S. Army “temporary confinement camps” at Dodd Field near Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio and Fort Bliss in El Paso.

Crystal City Family Internment Camp



(Top) Garner Field (Uvalde), courtesy of the Garner Aviation Museum.

(Lower left) Eagle Pass Army Air Field.

(Lower right) U.S. 2nd Cavalry Division troops forming ranks after arriving in Texas for training at Fort Clark (Brackettville), courtesy of the Friends of the Fort Clark Historic District.



Internment Camps in Texas during World War II.

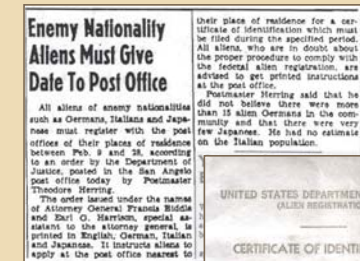
The government’s authority over Enemy Aliens and, by circumstance, their American-born children came from United States Code, Title 50, Section 21, Restraint, Regulation, and Removal, which allowed for the arrest and detention of Enemy Aliens during war. President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Proclamation No. 2525 on December 7, 1941 and Proclamations No. 2526 and No. 2527 on December 8, 1941—modeled on the Enemy Alien Act of 1798—collectively stated,

“All natives, citizens, denizens, or subjects of [Japan, Germany and Italy], being of the age of fourteen years and upward, who shall be in the United States and not actually naturalized, shall be liable to be apprehended, restrained, secured, and removed as alien enemies.”

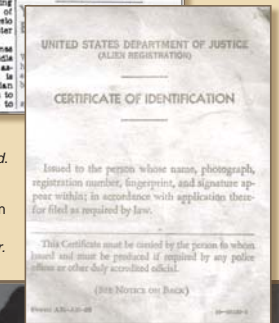
Prior to these presidential proclamations, the United States government realized the high probability that it eventually would be involved in war, regardless of the strong isolationist feelings the public generally held prior to December 7, 1941. In preparation, both the DOJ, through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the State Department, through the Special War Problems Program, produced detention lists. This system indexed

thousands of people as potentially dangerous individuals in time of war who were residing in the United States and Central and South America. With this questionable legal foundation in place, the FBI began arresting American citizens, and Enemy Aliens from Axis nations in America, as early as the night of December 7, 1941 and placed them in detention centers. By January 1942, all individuals classified as Enemy Aliens were required to register at local post offices. They were fingerprinted, photographed, and required to carry photo-bearing Enemy Alien Registration Cards at all times.

Early in 1942, the DOJ established a bi-level organization, which handled the individual cases of Enemy Aliens: The Enemy Alien Control Unit in Washington, D.C. and an Enemy Alien Hearing Board with branches located in each of the federal judicial districts of the United States (in Texas boards were held in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio). Each Enemy Alien Hearing Board consisted of three civilian members from the local community, one of whom was an attorney. Representatives of the U.S. Attorney for that district, the INS, and the FBI attended each hearing as well. Enemy Aliens taken into custody were brought before an Enemy Alien Hearing Board and were either released, paroled, or interned for the duration of the war.



(Above) February 6, 1942 newspaper article, courtesy of the San Angelo Evening Standard.



(Right) World War II Enemy Alien Registration Card, carried by Enemy Aliens while not interned, courtesy of former internee Eb Fuhr.



Fred Chiutaro Maizumi registering at the San Antonio police station, December 8, 1941. San Antonio Light Collection, Institute of Texan Cultures, UTSA, #L-2860-E, courtesy of the Hearst Corporation.

Confinement Site – History of Crystal City Family Internment Camp

By late 1942, the U.S. Army realized it needed to focus the efforts of its Provost Marshal General Office on the expected task of guarding hundreds of thousands of Axis prisoners of war. In response, the Department of Justice (DOJ) gave the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) the authority to house potentially dangerous Enemy Aliens (which included American citizens) at internment camps throughout the U.S. Early in the war, many detained Enemy Aliens were fathers, and the INS faced an increasing number of requests from wives and children volunteering to be interned so they might be reunited with the head of their households. Crystal City Family Internment Camp is unique because it was the only INS camp established specifically for families.

The INS looked for a site that was removed from important war production facilities and had good existing water and electrical services. Noting the pressing need for the camp to open, the INS looked at Crystal City, where the U.S. Government already owned a large portion of land. During the Great Depression, the Farm Security Administration acquired land on the outskirts of the city and built approximately 150 buildings to house migratory agricultural workers.

Originally the internment camp was intended to be populated by people of Japanese ancestry and their immediate families. However, on December 12, 1942, the camp's first internees to arrive were a mix of German Americans and German Enemy Aliens. On February 12, 1943, the first group of Latin Americans arrived—also Germans—deported from Costa Rica. On March 17, 1943, the first group of Japanese American internees arrived. The INS planned to transfer all German internees to another camp, but the German spokesman asked camp officials if they could remain because their living conditions here were far better than at previous confinement sites. Thus began the multi-national Crystal City Family Internment Camp. The population expanded throughout the war, and consisted of Issei and Nisei, German American citizens, German nationals, Italian nationals, as well as Latin American Japanese, German and Italian, and a small group of Indonesian sailors.

Crystal City Family Internment Camp

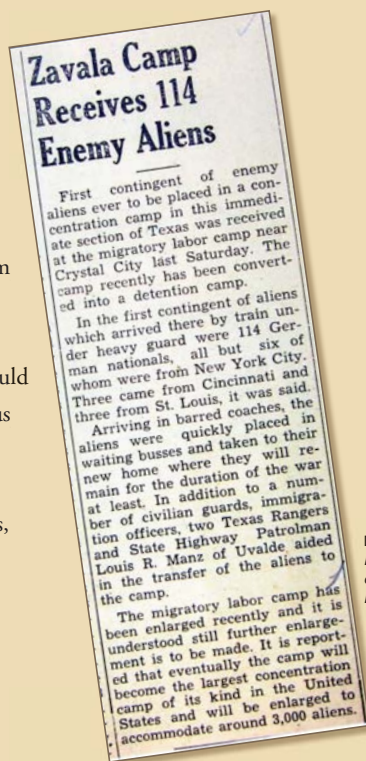


When the internment camp opened, it was approximately 240 acres in size, with 41 small three-room cottages and 118 one-room shelters (measuring 12x16 feet). Twelve of the original cottages were left outside the fenced area (100 acres in size) for use by official personnel and their families. With an expected increase in population, the DOJ confiscated an additional 50 acres to the south of the fenced area, dug a water well, and constructed a self-contained sewer system. The INS purchased the camp's utilities from the City of Crystal City, Central Power and Light, Texas Gas, and the Del Rio and Wintergarden Telephone Company.

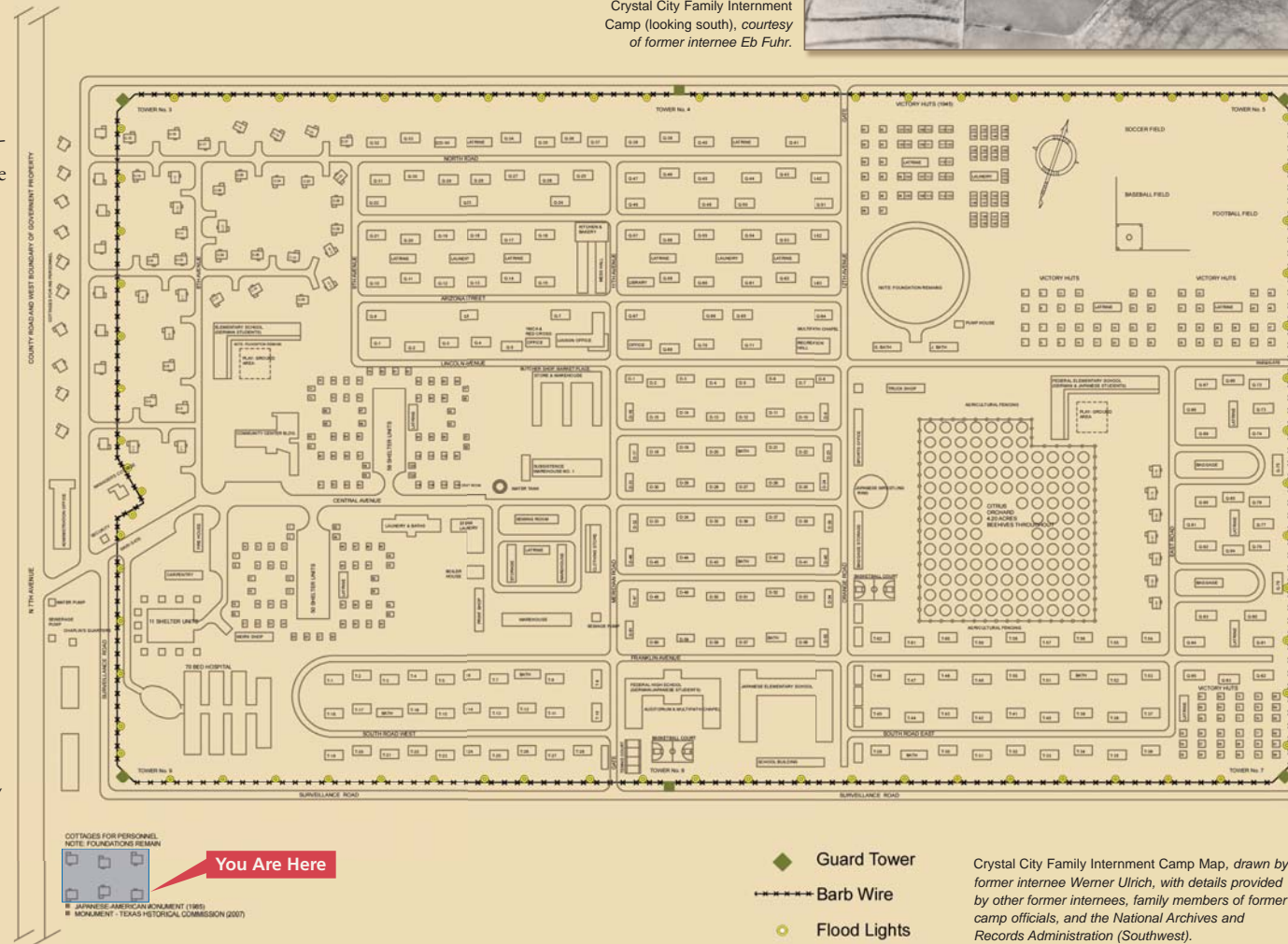
Within the fenced area, the INS constructed—with the assistance of the initial German internees and the support of Japanese American internees—housing units consisting of 61 duplex, 62 triplex and 96 quadruple design barracks and 15 additional three-room cottages for internees. As more and more internees arrived, the INS added 103 Victory Huts for temporary emergency housing. Internee housing for the most part offered families individual cooking facilities, cold running water, and oil stoves. The camp had a 10-foot high barbed wire fence around the internee section, six guard towers with one located on each corner and half-way down the west-to-east axis, an armed guard who patrolled the fence line, and an internal security force patrolling both the Japanese and German sections of the camp.



Crystal City Family Internment Camp (looking south), courtesy of former internee Eb Fuhr.



December 18, 1942, Uvalde Leader-News article, courtesy of the El Progreso Memorial Library Archives (Uvalde).



- ◆ Guard Tower
- Barb Wire
- Flood Lights

Crystal City Family Internment Camp Map, drawn by former internee Werner Ulrich, with details provided by other former internees, family members of former camp officials, and the National Archives and Records Administration (Southwest).

Living and Working in an Internment Camp



Crystal City Family Internment Camp Map, drawn by former internee Werner Ulrich, with details provided by other former internees, family members of former camp officials, and the National Archives and Records Administration (Southwest).

Crystal City Family Internment Camp was staffed by local civilian employees in secretarial and clerical positions, civilian nurses and doctors, a professional cadre of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) administrators and Border Patrolmen. Later in the war, the INS employed local men from Crystal City as guards. J. L. O'Rourke was the officer in charge. Under O'Rourke internment camp functions were allocated to several key divisions: the Administrative Service, Surveillance, Internal Security and Internal Relations [originally called the Liaison Division], Maintenance, Construction and Repair, Education, and Medical.

The Third Geneva Convention—Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (1929)—also applied toward the treatment of Enemy Aliens interned in INS camps, monitored by the International Red Cross. These provisions applied to the amount of food, living space, and clothing that each internee received, often better than the housing and living conditions of the rationing public in Zavala County. To comply with international law and promote as positive an environment as possible, the INS designed the internment camp much like a small

Crystal City Family Internment Camp



List of Prospective Guards Wanted at the Crystal C. Alien Camp

G. P. David, chief surveillance officer of the Alien Internment Camp at Crystal City, was in town Wednesday afternoon. He has recently been transferred from points in New Mexico to this section. In regard to positions at the camp, he stated: "From time to time vacancies may occur in the positions of Guard at the camp, and it is desired to maintain a list of prospective applicants. Those interested should apply at the Camp any afternoon except on Sunday. Those who have previously applied are asked not to again apply." It is understood from other sources that there is considerable construction now going on on the camp site, with perhaps more being planned. It is thought that several hundred alien Japanese will be held here until the end of the war.

It is further reported that about 100 alien Germans arrived there during the early part of the week and were temporarily interned in the new camp at Crystal City.

community with numerous buildings for food stores, auditoriums, warehouses, administration offices and a 70-bed hospital, places of worship, a post office, bakery, barber shop, beauty shop, school system, a Japanese Sumo wrestling ring, and a German beer garden. Internees printed four camp newspapers: the *Crystal City Times* (English), the *Jiji Kai* (Japanese), *Los Andes* (Spanish) and *Das Lager* (German).

In accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, no internee had to perform manual labor against their will. For those who wanted to work, they could earn 10 cents per hour up to a maximum of \$4 per week. Jobs ranged from store clerks, hospital staff, librarians, laundry workers, shoe repairmen, furniture and mattress factory positions, janitors, barbers, and beauticians. Select internees worked in the INS administration offices. Internees with agricultural experience worked in the camp's internal orange orchard, vegetable gardens, and the surrounding agricultural fields dedicated to the camp. In an effort to prevent internees from stockpiling cash in the event of an escape attempt, camp scrip was issued to internees.

Carrizo Springs Javelin Article, 1942.



Camp Administration Staff, courtesy of the National Border Patrol Museum (El Paso).



Camp Administration Building, Institute of Texan Cultures, UTSA, #098-0958, courtesy of Betty Fly.



Rare color photograph from Crystal City Family Internment Camp showing Japanese American internees' landscaping efforts, courtesy of former internee Art Jacobs.

The camp scrip was pressed paper and plastic tokens that resembled coins or poker chips, but were not legal tender.

Note: there were no reported escape attempts, successful or otherwise, from Crystal City Family Internment Camp.



Camp Scrip, courtesy of the National Border Patrol Museum (El Paso).

Schools in an Internment Camp



Crystal City Family Internment Camp Map, drawn by former internee Werner Ulrich, with details provided by other former internees, family members of former camp officials, and the National Archives and Records Administration (Southwest).

One of the most beneficial programs for internees established at Crystal City Family Internment Camp was an accredited education program. Robert Clyde "Cy" Tate was hired to supervise the school system. Prior to joining the staff in 1943, Tate had served as the Crystal City High School principal. One of Tate's initial objectives was to recruit qualified teachers to move to Crystal City and work in the camp's schools. This was no easy task due to the uncertainty of the work's duration and the remoteness of Crystal City. Challenged by the fact that each student was a transfer, Tate strived to meet state regulations concerning proper textbooks, teaching materials, and classroom space requirements per pupil.

Tate established three types of schools, the American (Federal) School, the Japanese School, and the German School. Each school provided an elementary, junior high, and high school education. The Federal School offered an American-style education; the Texas State Board of Education inspected the schools and granted full accreditation for all courses taught. Some graduates eventually went on to U.S. colleges. Both the Japanese and German schools provided students with a background in their ancestral

Crystal City Family Internment Camp

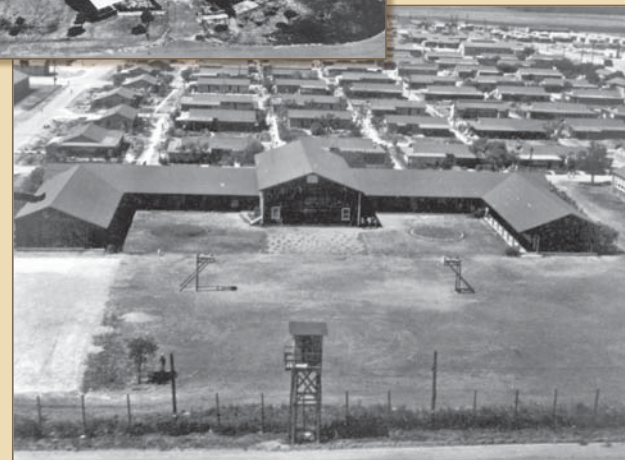


culture and language. Both Japanese and German American and Latin American internees served as teachers for non-federal schools and designed their own curriculum. While meeting the cultural needs of internees, the Japanese and German School systems assisted future voluntary and non-voluntary repatriates for life—after they were exchanged for U.S. and Allied personnel—in their ancestral home lands.

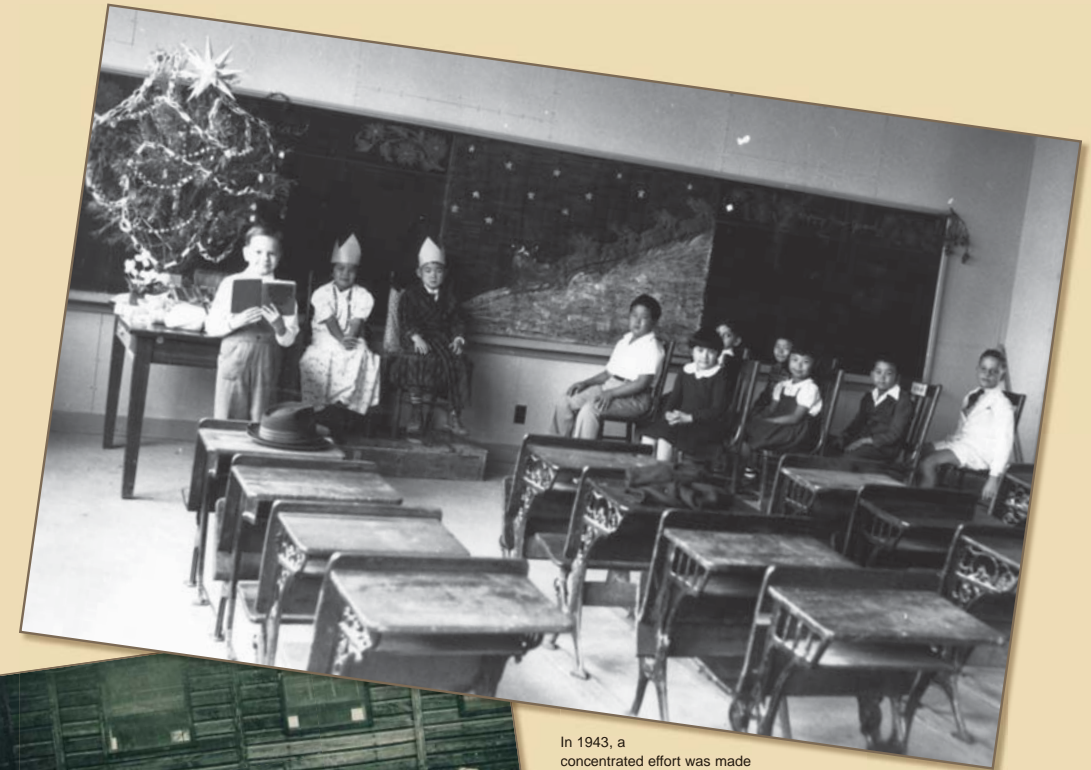
Federal High School, and its feeder school, Federal Elementary, provided students with both academic and athletic opportunities. Multiple softball and basketball and two football teams formed between 1943 and 1946, the year the school system closed. In 1944-1945, Federal High School students produced their own yearbook, the Roundup; published a school newspaper, the Campus Quill; held a prom; and participated in commencement exercises.



Aerial view of the German elementary school. [In 2011, at the time of installation of this sign this was the last standing structure from the camp], *Institute of Texan Cultures, UTSA, #098-0959, courtesy of Betty Fly.*



Aerial view of Federal High School (looking north), *courtesy of Carroll Brincefield.*



In 1943, a concentrated effort was made by the staff of the Federal Schools to see that a Christmas program was provided for children from each internee group. German and Japanese American internee children decorate a classroom during Christmas, *Institute of Texan Cultures, UTSA, #098-0968, courtesy of Betty Fly.*



One of Federal High School's German internee softball teams, *courtesy of former internee Eb Fuhr.*



The 1945 Federal High School Japanese American graduating class, *courtesy of RG 85 Entry 276 Box 46 Folder 602032 photo, National Archives and Records Administration, Archives II, College Park, MD.*

Crystal City Family Internment Camp & the Repatriation Process



View from the northwest guard tower; internee bungalows are visible in the background and the camp's security road is visible in the foreground, courtesy of the El Progreso Memorial Library Archive (Uvalde).

The United States implemented three programs to identify and, if necessary, detain civilians considered a threat to the country during World War II: the War Relocation Authority, the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Enemy Alien Control Unit program, and the Department of State's Special War Problems program. In all three programs, citizens of their respective countries, naturalized citizens within those countries, and legal resident aliens were targeted alongside individuals who legitimately qualified as Enemy Aliens.

Crystal City Family Internment Camp



Within days of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the DOJ took into custody several thousand Axis nationals. Although not legally administered in each case, and often spurred by prejudices, the action was intended to assure the American public that its government was taking firm steps to look after the internal safety of the nation. Within a few months, the United States looked toward the possibility of exchanging these Enemy Aliens with Japan, Germany, and Italy.

Between 1939 and 1945, the U.S. and its Allies suffered hundreds of thousands of casualties to the advancing Japanese and German armies across the globe. In addition to combat soldiers taken prisoner, U.S. and Allied civilians were cut-off overseas as country after country fell to the Axis. In an effort to safely return them, the U.S. began to negotiate with Japan and Germany in March 1942 to establish an exchange program. This exchange program began with governmental diplomats, but increased to include both civilians and wounded prisoners of war.

During the exchange process, Spain served as the Protectorate Nation for Japan, and Switzerland served as Protectorate Nation for Germany. The repatriation, or exchange process, with the Axis nations from Crystal City Family Internment Camp began in June 1942. One example of the process involved the chartered Swedish ship, *SS Gripsholm*, which sailed from the U.S. in June 1942 and again in September 1943 with a total of 2,405 Japanese American internees on these two trips. Later in the war, Japanese Latin Americans were exchanged for U.S. detainees in Japanese-held territories. German, German American, and German Latin Americans were voluntarily and involuntarily repatriated from Crystal City in two massive movements, one in February 1944 and one in December 1944—January 1945, also aboard the *SS Gripsholm*. Internees were required to wear a white tag attached to their lapel and luggage that served as their identification at all times during transit to and from Crystal City.



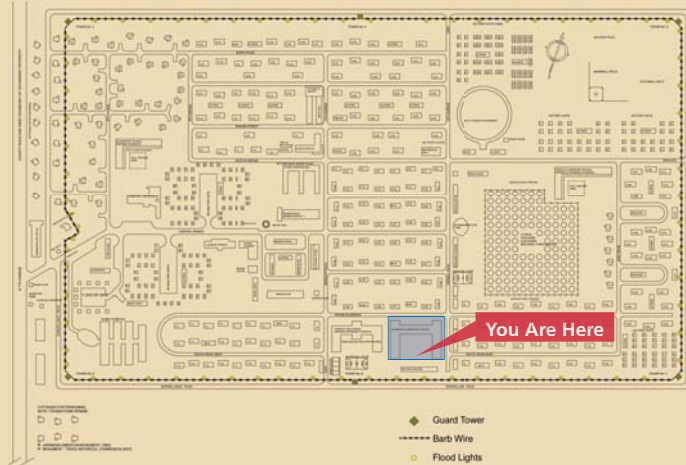
Internee lapel and luggage transit white tags, courtesy of former internee Heidi (Gurcke) Donald.

By June 30, 1945, with Germany and Italy knocked out of the war, and Japan less than two months away from unconditionally surrendering to the Allies, Crystal City Family Internment Camp still had an internee population of 3,316. As the war drew to a close, American authorities were faced with the problem of managing the internees still confined across the country. Part of the problem lay in how the internees should be designated. Those who voluntarily agreed to be sent back to their country of national origin were considered for possible return to the U.S. in the future. Included in this group were the American-born children of Axis nationals. The internees who did not volunteer or who were considered dangerous were classified as deportees and could not return to the U.S. permanently.



The *SS Gripsholm*, courtesy of former internee Jo Anna (Wartemann) Howell.

Japanese, German, and Italian Latin American Internment



Crystal City Family Internment Camp Map, drawn by former internee Werner Ulrich, with details provided by other former internees, family members of former camp officials, and the National Archives and Records Administration (Southwest).

During the war, the U.S. Department of State, in cooperation with 13 Central and South American countries and two Caribbean nations, worked to increase the security of the Western Hemisphere, especially the vulnerable and vital Panama Canal Zone. With the U.S. focused on a two-front global war against the Axis, this was accomplished primarily through financial and material support—via programs such as the Lend-Lease Act—to participating Central and South American nations. At a conference of Western Hemisphere countries in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in January 1942, the U.S. called for the establishment of the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense. This new security program was tasked with monitoring Enemy Aliens throughout Latin America. Enemy Aliens were required to register with the country they resided in, their ability to become citizens was significantly slowed, their travel freedom was limited, and they were not allowed to own firearms and certain forms of radio broadcasting equipment.

The result was that thousands of Axis nationals, as well as legal citizens of these Latin American countries who were of Japanese, German, and Italian ancestry, were taken into custody by local officials. While a number of those

Crystal City Family Internment Camp



arrested were legitimate Axis sympathizers, most were not. Forcibly deported, these detainees were shipped to the U.S., considered security risks and detained in internment camps across the U.S., including the three in Texas. While en route to the U.S., these Latin Americans were stripped of their passports and declared “illegal aliens” upon arrival, a fact many former internees and historians have referred to as “hostage shopping” and “kidnapping” by the U.S. and Latin American governments. These Latin American internees provided the U.S. with an increased pool of persons for exchange with Japan and Germany, each of which held comparable numbers of U.S. and Allied personnel taken prisoner during the war.

History has shown that the U.S.’ efforts were conducted not just to legitimately secure the region due to fears that Germany might seize power in Latin American countries or Japan might attack and occupy the vital Panama Canal Zone—essential to rapid passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans during the World War II—but also due to prejudice. There were Latin



Japanese, German and Italian Peruvians and Enemy Aliens boarding a train under military guard, courtesy of the San Francisco Public Library photo (Corbis, formerly Acme Newspictures).

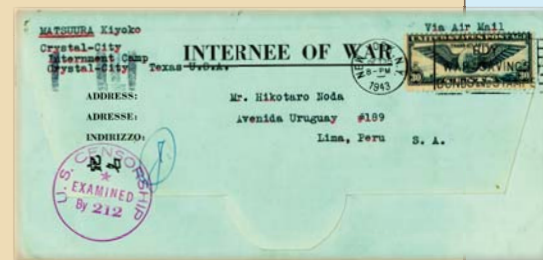
American and U.S. businessmen who begrudged the success of Japanese, German and Italian nationals and the war provided an opportunity to remove a source of competition.

Many Latin American detainees were sent to the U.S. by Army transport ships through ports such as New Orleans. From here internees were transported by train to Crystal City, or to nearby Uvalde and then bused. To the north of the pool was the temporary Victory Hut section of the camp where most Japanese Peruvians were first quartered upon arriving at the camp. This section of the camp served as temporary housing for newly arriving internees as current residing internees were processed out for parole or repatriation. Many Latin American internees, regardless of nationality, primarily spoke Spanish and had difficulty communicating in the camp through English, Japanese, and German.



Latin American internees at a picnic, shortly after arriving at Crystal City Family Internment Camp, courtesy of former internee Heidi (Gurcke) Donald.

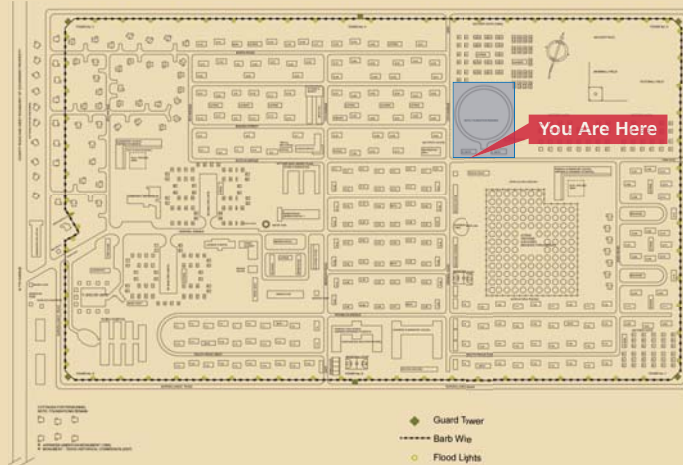
By December 1945, approximately 1,260 Japanese Peruvians were exchanged out of Crystal City—600 to Hawaii and 660 to Japan—because Peru would not take them back after the war. Many Japanese Peruvians had to wait nearly two years after the war ended, caught in a legal limbo before their release. To that end, the Immigration and Naturalization Service encouraged remaining internees to find a sponsor after parole. A canning and farming company at Seabrook Farms, New Jersey sponsored and hired the majority of the remaining internees.



Many Latin American internees left behind friends and family who had no clue as to their whereabouts until they received a letter, courtesy of the El Progreso Memorial Library Archive (Uvalde).



American Enemy Alien Internment



Crystal City Family Internment Camp Map, drawn by former internee Werner Ulrich, with details provided by other former internees, family members of former camp officials, and the National Archives and Records Administration (Southwest).

Crystal City Family Internment Camp is of national significance, because it was built to house Enemy Aliens and their families. From its inception through June 1945, Crystal City Family Internment Camp interned 4,751 (including 153 births) people.* The camp's population peaked at 3,374 on December 29, 1944, more than two thirds of which were of Japanese nationality or ancestry. Approximately 11,507 German Americans were interned in the U.S. during the war, accounting for 36 percent of the total internments under the Department of Justice Enemy Alien Control Unit Program. In addition, an estimated 4,500 ethnic Germans and Italians from Latin America were brought to the U.S. during the war, as part of the Department of State's Special War Problems program, with many held at Crystal City.

Millions of native-born Italians—later naturalized—and their American-born children lived in the U.S. when the country went to war with the Axis in 1941. In addition, there were also many Italian Enemy Aliens residing in America, as many as 600,000. However, the percentage of Italians, classified as Enemy Aliens and interned during the war was far

Crystal City Family Internment Camp



smaller than those interned from the Japanese and German American communities. Following the surrender of Fascist Italy in 1943, most Italian American and Enemy Alien internees were paroled or outright released by the end of that year. A few Italian Latin Americans, held in very small numbers at Crystal City, remained well after the end of the war.

A source of recreation and community, the camp's Swimming Pool/Irrigation Reservoir was the camp's largest defining feature (minus the security fence) and today is the most extant resource left of this nationally significant site. The 250-foot-wide-pool was designed by Italian-Honduran civil engineer Elmo Gaetano Zannoni. With German internees providing the labor, a former swamp was drained, cleared of snakes, expanded, and paved over to form the structure you see before you.

Directly in front of this sign is the foundation of the former German Bathhouse. To your right lies the foundation of the former Japanese Bathhouse. Both bathhouses and the pool are highlighted on the map before you. These two buildings were built separately to allow Japanese internees and their German and Italian internee counterparts separate and equal access to the community swimming pool in congruence

with the U.S.' obligation as a signatory of the Third Geneva Convention, which was applied toward Enemy Aliens and reads,

"The Detaining Power shall assemble prisoners of war in camps or camp compounds according to their nationality, language and customs ..."

** Records were not located in time for this signage project to document if the camp took on additional internees after June 1945.*



This photo of German American internees playing basketball, facing east, shows a cross section of a portion of the German internee section between the court and the camp's water tower, courtesy of former internee Eb Fuhr.

One of the three diving platforms at the camp's Swimming Pool/Irrigation Reservoir, courtesy of former internee Audrey Moonyeen (Neugebauer) Thornton.



German American internees building the Camp Swimming Pool/Irrigation Reservoir, Institute of Texan Cultures, UTSA, #098-0995, courtesy of Betty Fly.



Camp Swimming Pool / Irrigation Reservoir

In front of this sign is the foundation of the swimming pool's former Japanese Bathhouse. The pool was enjoyed by children throughout the internment camp, and was a welcome relief from the hot summer sun. The pool's shallow end is visible in front of you as a half-circle covered in concrete. The pool's deep end was filled-in with dirt after the war and today is distinguishable as a grass half-circle. The deep end of the pool facilitated three diving platforms. Between the deep end and shallow end are the metal piling remains of a safety cable that extended across the diameter of the pool, separating deep water from shallow. Tragically, in 1944, two Japanese Peruvian girls drowned while swimming in the pool when they slipped past the safety cable. Former Japanese American internee, Bessie Masuda from California (whose family was reunited

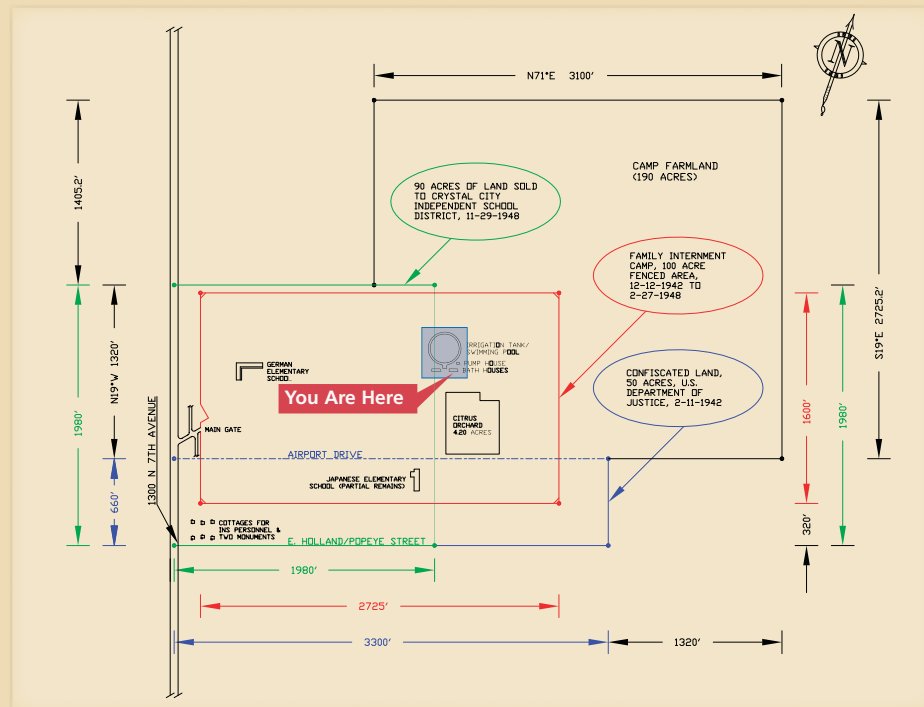
with her father at Crystal City), commented in an oral history interview with the Texas Historical Commission on the tragic drowning of the young Japanese Peruvian girls who ventured into the deep end of the pool, "... I was wading with my friends in the pool and we actually saw the girl drowning in the deep end of the pool. We all grabbed hands and tried to reach them, but the floor was too slippery for us. It was so sad that we couldn't help..."

The Crystal City Family Internment Camp closed on February 27, 1948, nearly 30 months after the end of the war on

September 2, 1945. In November 1948, the Crystal City Independent School District purchased 90 acres of the camp, primarily within the fenced area, from the War Assets Administration. To the north and east of this point is where the camp's athletic fields were located during the war. In 1952, the city purchased this portion of the camp to establish an airfield.

War II. Please visit the Crystal City Memorial Public Library located next to City Hall at 101 E. Dimmit Street and request a copy of the free brochure that accompanies this signage project. For more details on the Texas Historical Commission's interpretive efforts associated with Japanese, German, and Italian American, Latin American and Enemy Alien internment in Texas during World War II, please visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

The Texas Historical Commission would like to thank the city of Crystal City, the Crystal City Independent School District, former Japanese, German and Italian American, and Latin American internees and their families and friends, as well as a host of individual historians who have all contributed to this project.



Crystal City Family Internment Camp Plot Map, drawn by former internee Werner Ulrich, with details provided by former internee Jo Anna (Wartemann) Howell and the National Archives and Records Administration (Southwest).

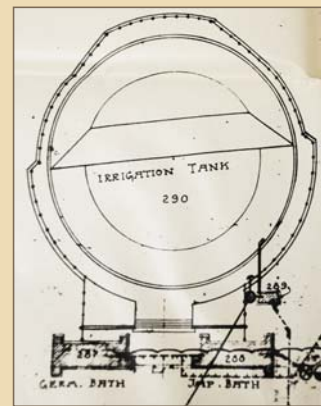
Crystal City Family Internment Camp



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Photo of Swimming Pool/Irrigation Reservoir empty, showing the deep end and diving boards, Institute of Texan Cultures, UTSA, #098-0998, Courtesy of Betty Fly.



Architectural drawing of the Swimming Pool/Irrigation Reservoir and the Japanese and German bathhouses [Italian internees shared the German bathhouse], courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration-Southwest.

Photo of internees at the camp swimming pool, courtesy of former internee Audrey Moonyeen (Neugebauer) Thornton.

